

**Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative
presents**

Deadly/Solid/Staunch Boomalli's Annual Mardi Gras Exhibition

Curated by Steven Ross

24 February 2022 to 9 April 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-op recognises the unceded sovereignty of the Gadigal and Wangal peoples and honour their continued connection to Country and their Elders who are the keepers of the knowledge and stories.

Exhibiting Artists: Jeffrey Samuels, Arone Meeks (dec.), Dennis Golding-Bowman, Jasmine Sarin, Peta-Joy Williams, Kirilly Dawn, Hayley Pigram, Jessica Johnson, Ella Noah Bancroft, Jai Walker, Nioka Lowe-Brennan, Nola Taylor and Haus of Blackstar.

The Boomalli Mardi Gras Exhibition for 2022, *Deadly/Solid/Staunch*, runs from Thursday 24 February 2022 and runs until 9th April 2022. Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative is a key First Nations arts and cultural institution that was established in 1987 and has run an annual Mardi Gras Exhibition since 1994. This exhibition has become a key event for the First Nations LGBTQIA+ community.

Deadly/Solid/Staunch is a celebration of First Nation LGBTQIA+ Elders, Leaders, community advocacy, activism and our survival, resilience, strength and our important and rightful place in the LGBTQIA+ community and broader Australian society.

Curated by Wamba Wamba queer man, Steven Lindsay Ross, the exhibition includes new artworks including commissioned pieces by Dennis Golding-Bowman, Jasmine Sarin and Jai Walker, as well as emerging artists and established senior artists such as Uncle Jeffrey Samuels.

Also included are images from previous Boomalli Mardi Gras exhibitions and a celebration of some of our community leaders, such as Dharug woman Auntie Chris Burke who was a 78er and Malcolm Cole who led the first Aboriginal Mardi Gras float in 1988 dressed in the now iconic Captain Cook outfit.

There are opportunities for contemplation including a memory wall where the community have shared their images from their own collections. This provides a catalyst for memory and conversation.

Likewise, the screening of "Double Trouble" a recently re-discovered documentary made in 1991 by renowned filmmaker Tony Ayres, is a moment for reflection. The documentary features First Nations LGBTQIA+ community members and their experiences of survival, resilience and love in the Sydney queer community, as they head out to the Mardi Gras parade.

Artwork List

1. **Tribute to Aunty Chris Burke
(1953 - 2016)**

Main image: Photography by Sallie Colechin. Images courtesy of Chris' life partner, Lesley Laing.

2. **Jeffrey Samuels**

Treaty Now
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 41 cm
\$800

3. **Nola Taylor**

Heeling Country
Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas
57 x 57 cm
\$1200

4. **Peta-Joy Williams**

Ceremony
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 50 cm
\$800

5. **Jasmine Sarin**

Deadly
2022
Acrylic on paper
86.6 x 67.1 cm
\$7000 for set of 3

6. **Jasmine Sarin**

Solid
2022
Acrylic on paper
86.6 x 67.1 cm
\$7000 for set of 3

7. **Jasmine Sarin**

Staunch
2022
Acrylic on paper
86.6 x 67.1 cm
\$7000 for set of 3

8. **Tribute to Vanessa Smith (1951 - 2022)**

Images courtesy of Raymond Zada, Sistergirls and Botherboys Gender Diverse Mob.

9. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**

Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each

10. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**

Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each

11. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**

Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each

12. **Nola Taylor**

Walking without judgment
Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas
92 x 92 cm
\$1800

13. **Jessica Johnson**

Reflections
Acrylic on canvas
95 x 100 cm
\$7500

14. **Ella Noah Bancroft**

Ex-stasy
Acrylic on paper (framed)
72.5 x 56.5 cm
\$1350

15. **Ella Noah Bancroft**

Crimson Creation
Acrylic on paper (framed)
49 x 63.5 cm
\$750

16. **Ella Noah Bancroft**

Milky Mess
Acrylic on paper (framed)
42.5 x 33.5 cm
\$450

17. **Tribute to Kooncha Brown
(Born 1961)**

Main Image: Photography by Kim Hill;
Lower right image: Photography by C. Moore Hardy; Top right image: reproduced with permission from ACON. Images courtesy of Tim Bishop.

18. **Nioka Lowe-Brennan**
Billaar Yinarr (Spear Woman)
Mixed media on canvas
81.5 x 101.5 cm
\$1200
19. **Hayley Pigram**
River Woman Dreaming
Acrylic paint on mannequin
30 x 50 x 15 cm
\$2500
20. **Jessica Johnson**
Still here still queer
Digital print
42 x 30 cm
\$75
21. **Tribute to John Newfong (1943 – 1999)**

Images reproduced with permission from the Melbourne Press Club.
22. **Jai Walker**
LOVE WON (One)
Coloured pencil on black gesso
180.5 x 74.8 cm
NFS
Private Collection of Blak Douglas
23. **Tribute to Malcolm Cole (1949 – 1995)**

Main image: Malcolm Cole winning the Special Parade Award for his entry in 1988, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Guide, 1990.

Left images: Malcolm dressed as Captain Cook for the 1988 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Parade. Photography by Elizabeth Dobbie (top) and Elaine Pelot Syron (below).

Right image: Malcolm Cole and Kathy Malera Bandjalan.
24. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**
Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each
25. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**
Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each
26. **Dennis Golding-Bowman**
Cape Series
Acrylic, satin
\$500 each
27. **Arone Meeks**
Mabo 25th
Etching
49.5 x 38 cm
\$1375
28. **Arone Meeks**
Mabo 25th
Etching
49.5 x 38 cm
\$1375
29. **Arone Meeks**
Homage to Keith Haring
Acrylic and mixed media
170 x 120 cm
\$25,000
30. **Tribute to Arone Meeks (1957-2021)**

Top left image: Gregory Phillips with body art by Arone Meeks; Top right image: Arone Meeks (pictured on the left); Lower left image: Arone Meeks with Gregory Phillips and friends; Lower right image: Arone Meeks painting Gregory Phillips for the 2000 Sydney Mardi Gras parade.

Images provided courtesy of Gregory Phillips and Arone's partner, Geoff "Tex" Dixon.
31. **Jeffrey Samuels**
Thanks Hurray! Yes Won
Mixed Media wall hanging
\$1500
32. **Jeffrey Samuels**
Equality Now
Mixed media wall hanging
\$1500
33. **Jeffrey Samuels**
Yes Won
Mixed media wall hanging
\$1500
34. **Jeffrey Samuels**
Yes Won Hurray
Mixed media wall hanging
\$150

35. **Tony Ayres (Director) / Big and Little Films**

Double Trouble

1991

Documentary

Film provided courtesy of Big and Little Films.

36. **Takataapui TV
Maori Television**

Hand in hand: sexy and dangerous

2008

Film provided courtesy of Jenny Fraser.

37. **Haus of Blackstar**

The Haus of Blackstar Black LGBTQI History

Digital prints on satin paper

NFS

38. **Kirilly Dawn**

Our women mother together

2022

Acrylic on canvas

91 x 76 cm

\$1800

39. **Kirilly Dawn**

The women before me

2018

Bark artwork

90 x 15 x 6 cm

\$900

40. **First Nations LGBTQIA+ community
Memory Wall**

Thank you to everyone who provided photographs for the Memory Wall.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Mardi Gras History

ACON

Alita Morgan

Australian Queer Archives

Brenda Croft

Ben Graetz

C Moore Hardy

Colin Ross

Dallas Wellington

Elaine Pelot-Syron

Garry Convery

Gavin Ivey

Graham Simms

Guy Gomez

Jamie James

John Johansen Moore

Josephine Ki

Kim Hill

Kooncha Brown

Lawrence Shearer

Lesley Laing

Maurice Shipp

MOD Studios Michaela Ledwidge

Robert Knapman

Ross Fowler

Sam Basa

Steven Ross

Sue Pinkam & Louise Bell

Tim Bishop

Victoria Jones

William Yang

Will Muwada/Sydney University

www.blackmardigras.net

41. **Historical Street Posters**

Posters sourced and reproduced with permission from the Australian Queer Archives, Lesley Laing Collection, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative and Dr. Bronwyn Bancroft.

Deadly/Solid/Staunch Graphic artwork by
Dennis Golding-Bowman.



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture

Funded by



**YOUNG
HENRYS**